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21 October 1987

Professor Michael Readhead
Department of History and Philosophy of Science
Free School Lane
Cambridge CB2 3RH

Dear Michael,

Thank you so much for sending me an invitation to attend
your Inaugural Lecture on PHYSICS FOR PEDESTRIANS on 17th November.
I would so much like to go, but I am afraid that my hearing
difficulties would prevent me from getting much profit out of
listening to you. But I wish you every success on the day, and
I hope you will let me know in due course how the lecture was
received.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Karl

Karl Popper

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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FROM HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

PROFESSOR M. L. G. REDHEAD

19th November 1987

Dear Karl,

You very kindly asked me to let you know how the Inaugural Lecture went. I am glad to say about 250 people attended, and the Vice-Chancellor made some nice remarks about the 'coming-of-age' of the subject at Cambridge.

I think my theme, a vigorous defence of the rationality of science, and of the fruitful interaction between metaphysics and physics, was well received. I am now preparing a written version of the lecture for publication by Cambridge University Press. I will send you a copy when it is ready.

DIRECT LINE: CAMBRIDGE (0223) 334556

P.T.O

My only disappointment was that you
were not able to present yourself.

But in the course of the lecture I
acknowledged my great intellectual
debt to your ideas.

With very best wishes

Yours

Michael

Professor Michael Redhead
Department of History & Philosophy of Science
Free School Lane
Cambridge CB2 3RH

26-11-87

Dear Michael,

I was charmed by your letter of 19-11-87.
I wish I could have been there. I am sure
it marked the introduction of a new age —
and the coming of age — of your subject.

I think that the point is that it is
problems that matter, and that problems
can be solved — if often only by hard work.
But most philosophers think in terms
of ideologies rather than problems. It was
this which turned me against the Vienna
Circle. It is this which turns me against
the Identity Theorists. (They do not dream of
solving a problem. They tell us that the
problems don't exist. They say to the
problems: "Go away!")

I am very grateful to you, and I
wish you luck from my heart.

Yours ever Karl.